

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), seventy applications have been received from Foreign Education Providers for imparting technical education in India in collaboration with Indian Education Providers.

(c) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has notified a Regulation in May, 2005 for the Entry and Operation of Foreign Universities/ Institutions intending to impart Technical Education in India. A policy on regulating Entry and Operation of Foreign Education Institutions is under consideration of the Government.

Outsourcing of NCERT books

†447. **SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of NCERT is outsourcing the work of writing books;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these agencies are being paid much higher than the prescribed amount;

(c) if not, the details of the last three years;

(d) the argument of NCERT for non allocation of writing work to its own staff;

(e) whether Government propose to conduct a high level enquiry of such irregularities prevalent in the said institution; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be started and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. Instead of individual authors writing textbooks, preparation of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks has been entrusted to Textbook Development Committees, consisting of some of the best

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

known experts in the country, NCERT's own faculty members and practising teachers of relevant classes known for their commitment and innovative capacity. Each Textbook Development Committee is guided by a Chief Advisor. The drafts thus developed are finally approved by the National Monitoring Committee appointed by the Government.

(b) and (c) Chief Advisors, Advisors and Members of Textbook Development Committees are being given one time honorarium for their contribution only for the original versions of the textbook as per the NCERT norms at the rate of Rs. 15000/-, Rs. 12000/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively.

(d) Preparation of the textbooks by a broad-based Textbook Development Committee consisting of experts, NCERT faculty members and practicing teachers is considered preferable to getting the textbooks written entirely by NCERT staff.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Task force to improve skill base

448. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are setting up a task force on vocational education to improve the skill base of the countrymen as the country would be faced with shortage of employees with essential skills with the rapid growth in the industry, particularly in Information Technology and electronic sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are serious to introduce Career-oriented new vocational courses at Secondary and Higher Secondary levels for getting more employment opportunities to the students in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHR MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) There is no proposal with the Ministry of HRD at present to set up a task force on Vocational Education.